

General Fire Prevention Strategies

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near all sleeping areas.

Conduct a home (and workplace) hazard hunt. Many items and conditions around the home and workplace can pose fire hazards. Taking time to look for and eliminate hazards will reduce the risk.

Inspect wood stoves and chimneys annually. Burning wood leaves flammable creosote deposits in the firebox, flue, and chimney. These buildups must be removed professionally to minimize the risk of fire.

Purchase only space heaters that have been laboratory tested and approved. Follow the manufacturer's directions for use. Plug heaters directly into a wall socket, and unplug them when they are not in use.

Keep combustible materials away from heat sources, including stoves, heaters, candles, and fireplaces. Materials such as curtains, bedding, furniture, towels, clothing, bags, and boxes can catch fire quickly. Keep them at least 3 feet away from heat sources.

Keep matches and lighters away from children. Children are fascinated by fire and will play with matches and lighters if they are available.

Never leave fire unattended. A controlled fire can quickly become uncontrolled.

Never leave a candle, fireplace, or space heater unattended.